

## Roadside Betterment Conference Prepares For Two-Day Meeting

Program to Eliminate Unsightly Highways Will Be Discussed

By RUDOLPH KAUFMANN II.  
A joint conference on roadside improvement to provide a common meeting ground for organizations throughout the country to discuss a legislative program for control of unsightly roadsides will be held at the Russell Sage Building in New York tomorrow and Tuesday.

The conference is the second of its kind ever held. A similar one was held two years ago. While some gains resulted from it they have not proved spectacular. It was indicated here yesterday by officials of the American Planning and Civic Association that the program which will result from tomorrow's and Tuesday's meeting will be by far the most comprehensive and most drastic ever drawn up.

**Conference Well Sponsored.**  
The conference is being sponsored, in addition to the Planning and Civic Association, by the Conservation Committee of the Garden Club of America, the American Nature Association and the National Roadside Council.

Representatives of these four

groups as well as the Public Roads Administration, the National Park Service, the United States Forest Service, the Westchester County Park Commission, the Department of Public Works of Rhode Island, the Connecticut State Highway Department, the American Automobile Association, the National Council of State Garden Clubs, the Automobile Manufacturers' Association, the Maryland Legislative Council, the Attorney General of New York, the Pennsylvania State Planning Board, the Pennsylvania Roadside Council, the Russell Sage Foundation and the National Association of Real Estate Boards will attend.

A number of persons from Washington will attend the meeting. They include Frederic A. Delano, chairman of the National Capital Park and Planning Commission; Horace M. Albright, president of the Planning and Civic Association; Harlean James, secretary of that organization; Wilbur H. Simonson of the Public Roads Administration; Thomas Vint, chief of planning for the National Park Service; George A. Duthe of the Forest Service; Newton B. Drury, new director of the National Park Service; Richard W. Westwood, secretary of the American Nature Association, and Pyke Johnson, executive vice president of the Automobile Manufacturers' Association.

**Heads Future Farmers**  
LEONARDTOWN, Md., Dec. 7 (Special).—Robert Scully of Hollywood has been elected president of the Southern Maryland branch of the Future Farmers of America.

## Mate Acquired for Gargantua, 600-Pound Circus Gorilla

Air-Conditioned Cage Is Awaiting Female Bought in Cuba

By the Associated Press.  
SARASOTA, Fla., Dec. 7.—Out in the big blacksmith shop at the Ringling Brothers-Barnum & Bailey Circus winter quarters, they're putting the finishing touches on a huge, gleaming, 10-ton, air-conditioned cage wagon, with big rubber-tired wheels and glass sides backed by chilled-steel bars.

There is just one other vehicle like it in the world. The duplicate stands a few yards away under a closely guarded tent, and from it there emanate intermittent roars, snarls and thumpings.

The occupant and author of the eerie noises is Gargantua the Great, the 6-foot, 600-pound, 10-year-old African gorilla which has grudgingly borne the awe-struck gaze of some 10,000,000 people on national tours the last three years.

The newly constructed cage could be for only one purpose—to hold another gorilla, and that's what it's going to do.

**Mate Coming from Cuba.**  
In a few days, if plans unfold smoothly, a boat from Cuba will disgorge at Miami a more amiable female gorilla of 350 pounds named Toto, which for several years has been thrashing around the Havana estate of Mrs. Kenneth Hoyt, widow of an African explorer.



GARGANTUA.

Toto has been bought by the circus as a mate for Gargantua.

The union—all press-agent superlatives aside—will be epochal in American zoological history. The acquisition of a mate is an important event in anybody's life, no less a gorilla's; and Gargantua's entry into the domestic state is unusual because Gargantua is unusual.

Gorillas thriving in captivity are rarer than Stradivarius violins. Captured, they die quicker than any other animal.

There are only about a dozen gorillas living in captivity in the world. The number of instances where they have been transferred successfully from jungle life to civilized surroundings is nearly as small as the number of Gutenberg Bibles, and the cases are as meticulously recorded.

A gorilla was brought to Boston on a ship in May, 1897, and died five days later. Just before the World War, Prof. R. L. Garner tried twice to install small living gorillas in the New York Zoo, but both died.

**Animal Taken to Apartment.**  
There had been only six brought to this country by 1921, when there arrived the most celebrated up to Gargantua's time, the famous John Daniel.

John Daniel was probably the most intelligent animal in his adaptation to human life, that ever lived. Captured as a baby in his native African forests during the World War, he was sold to a London department store. When he was 2 years old, and weighed only 32 pounds, he was bought by Maj. Rupert Penny of the R. A. F., and taken to live in his London apartment.

Under the tutelage of the major's stunt, Miss Alice Cunningham, an expert in training apes, John Daniel fitted in quickly to family life. He used the family bathroom and learned to turn on the water faucet when he wanted a drink and turn it off when he was through. Every night, promptly at 8 o'clock, he retired to a regular bed and pulled the covers up over him.

When he was 4 years old, weighed 112 pounds and stood 3 feet, 4 inches, he was bought by John Ringling and brought to New York for the opening of the circus season in Madison Square Garden. He was feted like a distinguished foreign personage and visited by many celebrities, including Jack Dempsey, who remarked, "I wouldn't fight that bird for any price."

**Sulked and Became Ill.**  
But, separated from Miss Cunningham, John Daniel got lonely, sulked and became ill. Gorillas are close enough to humans in their make-up that their emotional state deeply affects their physical well-being. Miss Cunningham hurried across the Atlantic, but before she arrived, John Daniel died.

She went to Africa and got another baby gorilla, John Daniel II, trained him for a year and brought him to the circus. Ensnared in a suite at the McAlpin Hotel in New York, John Daniel II even answered the door when visitors called. Miss Cunningham stayed with him to take care of him but he got sick in the middle of the circus tour and died.

With these two discouraging experiences, ventures with gorillas were abandoned. It seemed impossible to keep one alive on tour. For 14 years, no one tried it again.

Then John Ringling North, assuming the presidency of the circus after his uncle died, heard about Gargantua.

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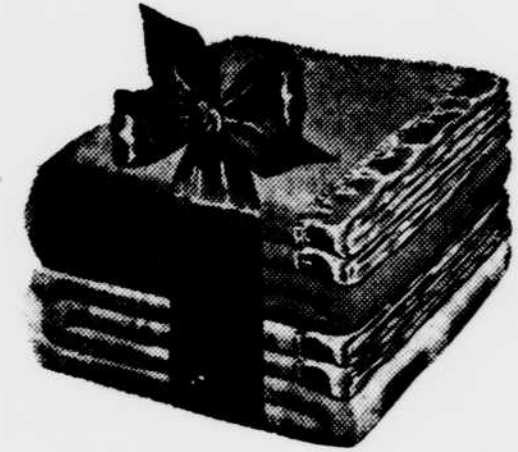
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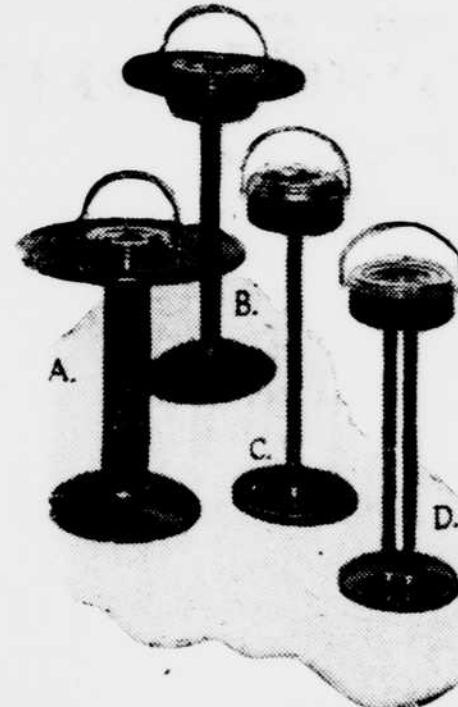
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